

Remarks

The Office Action dated December 2, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment and following remarks are made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application, of which claims 1, 2, 8, 14 and 19 are amended. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parent (U.S. Patent No. 6,217,360) in view of Ohtsuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,671,594) is respectfully traversed.

Parent describes connector locks for locking first and second connectors together, and more specifically for locking a plug (10) and a receptacle (12) together. A mounting bracket (40) is fixed in a stationary manner to the receptacle (12) and a mounting bracket (68) is fixed in a stationary manner to the plug (10), and the brackets (40) and (68) are pivotally displaceable with respect to one another to align mating portions of the plug (10) and receptacle (12). As described by Parent, the receptacle (12) is mounted to a chassis (16) and thus in use the receptacle (12) is mounted stationary while the plug (10) is engaged to the receptacle as shown in Figures 8A-8C. Parent does not disclose a bail latch or a bail latch retainer.

Ohtsuki et al. is cited as disclosing a bail latch (1). Applicants note, however, that Ohtsuki et al. describe nothing more than what is already disclosed in the Background section of the present application, namely a cable connector having two bail latches with one of the bail latches employed on either side of the connector. See paragraph [0003] of the present specification. Ohtsuki et al. do not describe or suggest a jack screw latch being used in combination with a bail latch to retain a cable connector to a mating connector.

It is asserted in the Office Action that the structure of Ohtsuki et al. allows mating of the connectors along a straight line, thus minimizing wear and overstress on the terminals of the

connectors, and therefore that the invention is obvious over Parent in view of Ohtsuki et al. In response, Applicants note that there is no discussion or suggestion in either of the cited references (Parent or Ohtsuki et al.) that excessive wear and stress on the terminals of the Parent device is present or is problematic, and it is not clear that the terminals of the Parent connector are engaged to a mating connector along something other than a straight line at the point of engagement in Figure 8C. Absent some showing that the Parent device is disadvantaged in such aspects, the assertion that one of ordinary skill at the time that the invention would have made the proposed modification to the teaching of the cited references, as set forth in the Office Action, is not believed to be supported by the cited references and is respectfully traversed.

Furthermore, Applicants describe in the present specification known connectors including connectors and latch features, including citations to prior art, which are mated to a mating connector along a straight line, while still being disadvantaged. More specifically, in addition to describing connectors like that of Ohtsuki et al. in paragraph [0003] of the present specification, Applicants specifically discuss in the present specification the disadvantage of such connectors. See at least paragraphs [0005] and [0006] of the present specification. Ohtsuki et al. neither recognize the noted disadvantages of such connectors, nor describe any structure that is capable of resolving them. Ohtsuki et al. is therefore respectfully submitted to add nothing to the teaching of Parent with respect to the instant invention.

Claim 1 recites a low profile cable connector assembly comprising “a first connector comprising a base and a pivotally mounted bail latch, said bail latch movable relative to said base between a latched position and an unlatched position,” and “a cable connector comprising a mating connector face, and opposing first and second lateral sides extending from said mating connector face; wherein one of the first and second sides of said cable connector comprises a bail latch retainer thereon, said bail latch retainer configured to receive said pivotally mounted bail latch-when said bail latch is moved relative to the mating connector face to said latched position,” and “a jack screw latch located adjacent the other of said first and second sides of said

cable connector and opposing said bail latch retainer, wherein each of said bail latch retainer and said jack screw latch securely connect said mating connector face to said base.”

Parent in view of Ohtsuki et al. neither describe nor suggest the connector assembly of claim 1. Parent describes a connector having a jack screw on one end a connector lock on the other end which is not a bail latch retainer. Ohtsuki et al. describe a connector having two bail latch retainers. Neither reference teaches or suggests a connector having a jack screw latch opposed to a bail latch retainer, wherein each of the bail latch retainer and the jack screw latch securely connect a mating connector face to a base of a first connector. Consequently, the combination of Parent in view and Ohtsuki et al. fail to teach all the recitations of claim 1, and are not suggestive of the invention of claim 1. Specifically, Parent and Ohtsuki et al. nowhere suggest a desirability of providing a bail latch retainer and a jack screw latch on opposing sides of the same connector.

Claim 1 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Parent and Ohtsuki et al., Likewise, the detail recitations of claims 2, 4 and 5, when considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, are likewise submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

In addition, the cable exit overhanging a bail latch retainer, as recited in claim 2, is nowhere described or suggest by Parent and Ohtsuki et al.

Claim 8 recites a low profile cable connector assembly comprising “a mating connector comprising a base and a pivotally mounted bail latch,” and “a cable connector comprising a mating connector face, first and second lateral sides extending from said mating connector face, and a cable exit extending from one of said first and second sides,” “wherein said first side of said cable connector comprises a bail latch retainer thereon, said bail latch retainer extending substantially perpendicular to said first side and defining a slot extending substantially parallel to said mating connector face, said slot configured to receive said bail latch when said cable connector is mated to said mating connector and when said bail latch is pivoted about said base

to a latched position,” and “a jack screw latch located adjacent said second side of said cable connector, said jack screw opposing said bail latch retainer, wherein said bail latch retainer and said jack screw latch respectively secure said first and second lateral sides of said cable connector to said base.”

For the reasons set forth above, Parent and Ohtsuki et al., separately and in combination, do not describe or suggest a connector having a bail latch retainer and a jack screw opposing the bail latch retainer, and do suggest any desirability of providing the same.

Claim 8 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Parent and Ohtsuki et al., Likewise, the detail recitations of claim 11, when considered in combination with the recitations of claim 8, are submitted to be patentable over Parent.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 11 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12-13, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Parent in view of Ohtsuki et al., and further in view of Defibaugh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,842,547) is respectfully traversed.

Parent and Ohtsuki et al. are described above, and are deficient in describing certain aspects of the present invention. Defibaugh et al. is respectfully submitted to add nothing to the teaching of Parent with respect to the instant invention, and Defibaugh et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Parent in view of Ohtsuki et al. with respect to the claims at issue.

Defibaugh et al. discloses strain relief features for a connector, and notably does not disclose latching features to securely engage the connector with a mating connector. Specifically, Defibaugh et al., like Parent and Ohtsuki et al., do not describe or suggest a cable connector assembly having a bail latch retainer in combination with a jack screw. Rather,

Defibaugh et al. is silent regarding latching features which may secure the Defibaugh et al. connector to a mating connector.

Thus, as none of the cited references discloses or suggests any desirability of such features, independent claims 1 and 8 are submitted to be patentable over Parent in view of Ohtsuki et al. and further in view of Defibaugh et al.

The recitations of claims 3, 6, and 7, when considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, are likewise submitted to be patentable over Parent in view of Ohtsuki et al. and further in view of Defibaugh et al.

The recitations of claims 10, 12, and 13 when considered in combination with the recitations of claim 8, are likewise submitted to be patentable over Parent in view of Defibaugh et al.

The assertion that Applicants have not disclosed that the jack screw extending through the top surface solves any particular problem or is for any particular purpose is respectfully traversed, As described in at least paragraphs [0027] and [0042] of the present specification, the arrangement of the jack screw is provided for accessibility purposes.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12-13 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 14-20, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Parent in view of Ohtsuki et al., and further in view of Defibaugh et al. and Zelno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,197,900) is respectfully traversed.

Parent, Ohtsuki et al., and Defibaugh et al. are described above, and collectively are deficient in disclosing or suggesting certain features of the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that Zelno et al. does not cure these deficiencies.

Zelno et al. is cited as disclosing the use of a jack screw extending above a top surface of connector housing. Applicants note, however, that Zelno et al. describe nothing more than what is already disclosed in the Background section of the present application, namely a cable connector having jack screws with one of the jack screws employed on either side of the connector. See paragraph [0004] of the present specification. Zelno et al. nowhere describe or suggest a jack screw latch being used in combination with a bail latch to retain a cable connector to a mating connector, and thus Zelno et al. is respectfully submitted to add nothing to the teaching of Parent, Ohtsuki et al., and Defibaugh et al. with respect to the instant invention.

Claim 14 recites a low profile cable connector assembly comprising “a first connector comprising a base and a pivotally mounted bail latch,” and “a cable connector comprising a housing defining a mating connector face extending opposite a top surface which is sloped relative to said mating connector face, first and second lateral sides extending from said mating connector face, and a cable exit extending from one of said first and second sides in a direction parallel to said top surface,” “wherein said first side of said cable connector comprises a bail latch retainer thereon, said bail latch retainer comprising a hook which receives said pivotally mounted bail latch as said bail latch is moved relative to said base and moved relative to said housing when said first connector and said cable connector are mated,” and “wherein a jack screw latch is located adjacent said second side of said cable connector opposing said bail latch retainer, said jack screw extending above said sloped surface of said housing.”

None of Zelno et al., Defibaugh et al., Parent and Ohtsuki et al., considered separately and in combination, describe or suggest a cable connector assembly having a bail latch retainer in combination with a jack screw. As none of the cited references discloses or suggests any desirability of such features, independent claim 14 is submitted to be patentable over Parent in view of Ohtsuki et al. and further in view of Defibaugh et al. and Zelno et al.


The recitations of claims 15-20, when considered in combination with the recitations of claim 14, are likewise submitted to be patentable over Parent in view of Defibaugh et al.

Moreover, the cable exit overhanging a bail latch retainer as recited in claim 19 is nowhere described or suggested in the prior art.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 14-20 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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